

Santa Monica, California

Work Force Housing Today

Colorado Court, Pugh + Scarpa Architecture

A 44-unit five story SRO, will be one of the first buildings of its type in the United States that is 100% energy independent. Colorado Court distinguishes itself from most conventionally developed projects in that it incorporates energy efficient measures that exceed standard practice, optimize building performance, and ensure reduced energy use during all phases of construction and occupancy. Colorado Court emerged from close consideration and employment of passive solar design strategies.

The project features several state-of-the-art technologies that distinguish it as a model demonstration building of sustainable energy supply and utilization. These technologies include a natural gas powered turbine/heat recovery system that will generate the base electrical load and hot water demands for the building and a solar electric panel system integrated into the façade and roof of the building that will supply most of the peak load electricity demand. The co-generation system will convert utility natural gas to electricity to meet the base load power needs of the building and will capture waste heat to produce hot water for the building throughout the year as well as space heating needs in the winter. This system will have a conversion efficiency of natural gas in excess of 70% compared to a less than 30% conversion efficiency of primary energy delivered by the utility grid at the building site. The solar photovoltaic system will produce green electricity at the building site that releases no pollutants to the environment. These systems will pay for themselves in less than ten years and annual savings in electricity and natural gas bills are estimated to be in excess of \$6000. Recipient of “The Westside Prize” presented by the west-side urban forum.



Project Data

Owner Client:	Community Corporation of Santa Monica
Project Cost:	\$4.2 Million.
Project Type:	Very-low-income, low-income, moderate-income, market-rate singles and family units.
On-site Amenities:	Community Center, Outdoor community spaces, covered parking for 20 cars
Number of Units:	144 single resident occupancy units (375 square feet max per unit)